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USSR (Moscow Oblast)

The Chemical Faculty of the Lomonosov
University (*and courses of study*)

4 June 1959

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[redacted] a report on the chemical faculty of the
Lomonosov University, listing the departments and laboratories of the
faculty and curriculum for each year.

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1. In 1957 about 1500 students, including 100 foreigners, were enrolled in the chemical faculty of Lomonosov University. A special permit was required to enter the grounds, which were in the new university building in the Lenin Hills.
2. The faculty included the following departments:
 - a. Organic chemistry.
 - b. Inorganic chemistry.
 - c. Physical chemistry.
 - d. Analytical chemistry.
 - e. Collodial chemistry.

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- f. Chemical technology.
 - g. History of chemistry.
3. The faculty had the following laboratories:
- a. Synthesis (Bolshoi Sintez).
 - b. Aromatic and nonaromatic compounds.
 - c. Petroleum.
 - d. Organic catalysis.
 - e. Albuminal compounds.
 - f. Analysis of alloys.
 - g. Thermodynamics.
 - h. Thermochemistry. This laboratory included a special department engaged in research on fuel purification for the Soviet Air Force.
 - i. Electrochemistry.
 - j. Catalytical kinetics. Professor Topcheyeva, the dean of the faculty, conducted research on the catalysis of alumi-silicate in this laboratory.
 - k. Kinetics.
 - l. Spectroscopy.
 - m. Crystallography.
 - n. Chemistry of radioactive elements, for which an entry permit was required.
 - o. Mechenikh Atomov (?).

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- p. Adsorption.
- q. Colorimetry.
- r. Soil depression (?).

4. Following was the first-year curriculum of the chemical faculty:

- a. Inorganic chemistry.
- b. Mathematics.
- c. Physics.
- d. Marxism-Leninism.
- e. One foreign language.
- f. Physical culture.

With one exception, the substitution of analytical chemistry for inorganic chemistry, the course for the second year was identical.

5. Following was the third-year curriculum:

- a. Organic chemistry.
- b. Mathematics, a continuation of second-year studies.
- c. Crystallography.
- d. Theoretical physics.
- e. Chemistry of colloids.
- f. Theory of matter (Badanie Materii).
- g. Political economy.
- h. Foreign language.

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6. The fourth-year course consisted of the following subjects:

- a. Physical chemistry.
- b. Chemistry of colloids.
- c. Theory of matter.
- d. History of chemistry.
- e. Foreign language.
- f. Marxism-Leninism.

At the end of the fourth year the students spent two months for specializing in a chemical works.

7. The fifth year was devoted to specialization in one of the faculty's laboratories, preparation and presentation of thesis; tests in professional subjects; and government examinations in Marxism-Leninism. Students who failed in the latter subjects did not receive diplomas. A committee classified students and assigned them to jobs for three years.
8. Only a few of the 300 students in the thermochemistry laboratory were farmers' or workers' sons; the majority were the children of high government or Party officials or of high-ranking military officers. About 10 percent belonged to various national minorities.
9. There were boarding facilities, at a cost of 45 rubles a month, which were used by about 15 percent of the students. There

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were also two restaurants, for the lecturing staff and the students, respectively. Student lunches cost 2.5, 3.5 or 5 rubles, and each included a meat course.

10. Students were generally on the campus from 1000 to 1800 hours, since lecture attendance was compulsory. Students with above average marks received a monthly scholarship grant of 350 to 450 rubles, or even more in the case of outstanding achievement. Since 1957, however, the economic position of the student's parents has determined scholarship eligibility; students whose parents individually earned more than 500 rubles a month no longer received scholarships. The purpose of the change was to achieve a greater degree of impartiality, since professors had formerly overgraded scholarship students. Moreover, under the former system wealthy students spent their scholarship money on entertainment while workers' sons went hungry.
11. A network of secret informers maintained strict surveillance over all student activities; even intimate conversations were related to the security authorities. After the Stalin era, and especially after the XXth CPSU Congress, a spirit of doubt and criticism spread among the students, particularly in the physics faculty. In 1956 many students listened to

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the BBC and the Voice of America, and during the Hungarian rebellion a typewritten pamphlet, which contradicted official communiques on Hungary and Poland, was circulated in the university. A demonstration was held in portest to the official banning of Dudintsev's Not by Bread Alone. There were a number of incidents of inebriation, theft, and burglary, and a low moral standard prevailed, although not among the Chinese group, which was the largest foreign contingent. The Chinese were extremely conscientious and were almost religious about their studies, which they completed with distinction.

12. The following persons were known:

a. Professor Rembinder (fnu),

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b. Professor Spitsin (fnu),

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c. Professor Tatyevski (fnu) was the deputy dean of the faculty. His textbook on the composition of materials was used by the university.

d. Professor Klaudya Vasilevna Topcheyeva was the dean of the faculty and the head of the catalytical kinetics department.

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